

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** Locking device for a vehicle door, comprising:

a lock arranged between an inside panel and an outside panel of a vehicle door, which outside panel is fastened to the inside panel, said lock having a release lever arranged between the inside panel and the outside panel for moving the lock from a lock position of the lock to an unlocked position, and

an outside operating mechanism acting upon the release lever by way of a force transmission element, the outside operating mechanism comprising a supporting part fastened to an interior side of the outside panel and a swivelable pull handled arranged on an exterior side of the outside panel,

wherein a catching device is provided, as viewed in a driving direction, adjacent a rear side of the lock within the vehicle door, and is ~~configured~~ operatively connected to the inside panel such that during a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catching device interacts with a supporting part of the outside operating mechanism and limits a bulging of the outside panel toward the outside.

**2. (Previously Presented)** Locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the catching device comprises a catch pin extending substantially in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and a holding part which is aligned substantially in a transverse direction of the vehicle and has a receiving device surrounding the catch pin.

**3. (Previously Presented)** Locking device according to Claim 1, wherein a catch pin is provided on the supporting part.

**4. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin is constructed in one piece with the supporting part.

**5. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin is formed by a separately manufactured part which can be fastened to the supporting part.

**6. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 2, wherein in an inoperative normal locked position of the vehicle door, the receiving device of the holding part extends at a radial distance from the interior catch pin, whereas, starting from a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catch pin is locally supported on the outer edge of the receiving device.

**7. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein in an inoperative normal locked position of the vehicle door, the receiving device of the holding part extends at a radial distance from the interior catch pin, whereas, starting from a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catch pin is locally supported on the outer edge of the receiving device.

**8. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 5, wherein in an inoperative normal locked position of the vehicle door, the receiving device of the holding part

extends at a radial distance from the interior catch pin, whereas, starting from a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catch pin is locally supported on the outer edge of the receiving device.

**9. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 2, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

**10. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

**11. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 5, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

**12. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 6, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

**13. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 2, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

**14. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

**15. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

**16. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 6, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

**17. (Original)** Locking device according to Claim 2, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

18. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

19. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

20. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 6, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

21. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 2, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

22. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

23. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

24. **(Original)** Locking device according to Claim 6, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. **(Cancelled)**

**28. (Cancelled)**

**29. (Cancelled)**

**30. (Cancelled)**

**31. (Cancelled)**